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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC No. 5201-83
18 July 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Milton Kovner
National Intelligence Officer for Western Europe

SUBJECT : Your Meeting with Ambassador Stearns on Tuesday, 19 July

1. I note from your calendar that you will be meeting with Ambassador Stearns at 1145 on Tuesday. Stearns returned from Athens on home leave following the initialing of a new Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement with Greece. The last stumbling block to the agreement -- the issue of the accord's termination clause -- was bridged with compromise language which provides for a five year period after which either side can terminate upon written notice. Papandreou, in deference to domestic critics who pressed for a more unequivocal statement on termination, has already taken a public position that the bases will, in fact, be terminated after the initial five year period and the United States will then have seventeen months to remove them.

2. The termination clause as it stands is comparable to agreements we have with a number of other countries; and we are banking on the prospect that either a new government will be in office in Athens when the agreement comes up for renewal or that Papandreou himself will by then have decided that the bases should continue in the mutual interest. The DECA does not deal with other US assets in Greece, such as the Voice of American facilities, which, since abrogation of the lease agreement in 1977, have remained in Greece with uncertain legal status.

3. I would welcome the opportunity to sit in on the meeting, unless you have some problem with it.

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Milton Kovner

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